

Santa Rosa County
Emergency Medical System (EMS) Task Force Meeting
October 5, 2000

Chief John E. Reble, Chairman called meeting to order at 9:00 AM in Santa Rosa County Media Center.

Members Present:

Bobby Busby
Chief Bob Minshull
Dr. Wes Mathews
Chief John E. Reble
Chief Bill Markopoulos
Chief David Burnett
Dominic Persichini

Members Absent:

Bob Murphy
Tony Simmons

Staff Present:

Dave Ling
Sheryl Bracewell
Steve Mewborn

Visitors Present:

Joe Diamond
Dr. Peter Manis

Agenda was approved as submitted.

Chief Reble passed out reports of BLS First Responder Agency Response Survey Results and Analysis of Emergency Medical Calls by Fire District.

Chief Reble discussed the reports and stated that he was surprised that fire departments in the rural areas were getting to the scene before EMS the majority of response calls. Only five "no responses" were recorded in the rural areas. There were 28 "no response" in the urban area.

Chief Reble stated one of his main concerns was the effectiveness of the two-tier system. If the fire departments cannot arrive on-scene within the first six minutes of the call, and usually prior to EMS, then the two-tier system is not really functioning as it is intended.

The minutes were approved with amendments.

There was no correspondence for this period.

There was discussion concerning the previous minutes being placed on the EMS Task Force Web Site.

Chief Reble reported that the committee responsible for distributing the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS) had met and discussed the distribution of the AEDS.

Mrs. Bracewell stated that she would give the EMS Task Force Committee a written report of how many and which agencies had received the AEDS at the next meeting. Mr. Ling asked if the businesses that were discussed in previous meetings had received AEDS. Mrs. Bracewell stated that the AED committee made a decision not to give the businesses one.

Mrs. Bracewell gave a verbal report on how many AEDS had been distributed. She said that one of the committee's major concern was, for example some of the Fire Chiefs want to put the AEDS in their vehicle and some of them work in Pensacola and would not be able to respond to medical calls during the day. The committee felt that the AEDS should be placed in the vehicles that would be able to respond.

The Task Force discussed who would be responsible for the AEDS that were distributed to different agencies.

Mrs. Bracewell stated the committee that met for the AEDS wanted there to be some control of the AEDS, therefore the County donated the AEDS to the Firefighters Association who issued them to the fire departments.

The Task Force committee reviewed the fire department's BLS First Responder Response Surveys.

Chief Reble stated some fire department's surveys are saying that only First Responders are allowed to respond to medical calls and some say that everybody can respond, but only First Responders can provide patients treatment. He said that was fine with him because the ones that are not First Responders can provide help to the First Responders.

There was discussion on the responsibility of person or persons who respond to a medical call and does not have the minimum level of training (First Responder), but is the first person to arrive on the scene.

There was also discussion concerning the liability insurance and its benefits for first responders.

Mr. Persichini shared with the Task Force the National Highway Safety Traffic Manual he received from Dr. Manis. This manual provides training courses that could teach the general public and first responders CPR and various courses similar to what the Red Cross teaches with no cost to them.

Chief Reble stated that if this training program that Mr. Persichini is talking about is legal it would be a very good idea.

There was discussion of problems with traffic on the roadway when emergency vehicles are responding to emergency calls. Also discussed was ways to inform the public on how to clear the roadway by going to the right if possible and stop when emergency vehicles are on the roadway responding to emergency calls.

The Task Force members had a general discussion about Paramedic Transportation and response time for stroke victims and trauma patients in rural areas.

Chief Reble asked Dr. Mathews and Dr. Manis to explain the procedures of receiving patients at the medical facilities.

Dr. Mathews and Dr. Manis gave an explanation of when Santa Rosa County Medical Center receives trauma patients and reason why the trauma patients are transferred to hospitals in Escambia County.

Chief Reble asked Dr. Manis and Dr. Mathews to continue this discussion of what action and information emergency facilities receiving trauma patients at the next meeting.

There were no public comments and questions.

The next EMS Task Force meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2000 at 9:00 AM.